

Exerpts From
"THE CUBAN INVASION"

by

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(Tad Szulc covered the Cuban revolution during his six years as Latin American correspondent for The New York Times. Later, member of the Washington Bureau of The Times.)

Chapter IV, page 95 of the book published by Frederick A. Praeger:

"But even the pre-invasion purges were not enough, apparently, for the CIA operatives and their Cuban business and political friends. There was still one more arrangement in the dark to assure that a post-Castro regime contained no troublemakers.

"This top-secret project was known as 'Operation Forty,' and was set in motion in early March by Sanjénis and the intelligence branch of the Front.

"Many details of 'Operation Forty' are still shrouded, but enough is known to indicate that it was intended as a kind of 'civilian-military government' that would move in on the heels of the invading army and take control of the national and local governments before the underground fighters could realize what was happening.

"Curiously, the 'Liberators' were planning to repeat the policy of Che Guevarra when he swept down into the plains of central Cuba and left his political indoctrinators behind in every town and village in his path. The difference is that Guevarra planted procommunists, and the 'Cuban CIA' was going to plant what at best can be called unreconstructed antirevolutionaries. As 'Operation Forty' was being organized, it is worth remarking, the Kennedy Administration was eloquently affirming its support for a noncommunist but advanced social revolution in Cuba.

"According to well-informed Cubans, 'Operation Forty' also had a second task: that of assassinating, if necessary, political leaders who stood in the way. It was reported that the project included a hand-picked task force of professional killers who were to eliminate obdurate elements which might oppose a return to the good old days. In the confusion of battle, such killings could go unnoticed and the victims depicted as communists. One of the potential killers was reported to be Ramon Calvino, a Batista police torturer, a seaman who had been smuggled on shipboard and who subsequently went ashore with the invading forces and was captured by Castro's militia. In history's strange way, Calvino himself was executed."

(Bernard L. Barker, Watergate defendant, in a nervous appearance before the television cameras on May 24, 1972 let slip the information that a Cuban, Mr. Didiego or De Diego that accompanied him in burglarizing Ellsberg's psychiatrist's files was a member of Operation Forty. The intelligence activities of Amos E. Heacock establishes that E. Howard Hunt supervised the 'Operation Forty' assassination team of Barker, Gonzales and De Diego in 1962.)